

13 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation - Secretary of Defense McNamara
calling General Norstad from Washington

In a telephone conversation at approximately 1715 hours today, Secretary McNamara referred to a long cable from General Lemnitzer to General Norstad containing ten questions. He stated that he was in the process of sending essentially the same cable; however, the answers would be somewhat different. General Lemnitzer was providing answers to the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary in turn took these answers and modified them somewhat, in two or three cases rather extensively, particularly as relates to air. The Secretary wanted to suggest to General Norstad, therefore, when he receives the SECDEF cable (which will come in a couple of hours later), he refer to the Secretary's answers rather than to Gen Lemnitzer's. The Secretary stated that he covers almost all the points General Lemnitzer covered, and put in some additional material as well; and what SECDEF put in may be controversial.

General Norstad commented: "Then, as I understand it, we will comment on the paper, the questions and answers, Lem sent to me, except where your message gives your answers, in which case we will comment on yours and not on Lem's."

The Secretary indicated this was what he wanted and added that in particular the General should note differences of interpretation, shifts of emphasis, nuances, which he said the General would see and which are very important. He stated: "If you do not agree with, and you may not, I am anxious to know that."

Secretary McNamara stated that the deadline indicated in Gen Lemnitzer's message was in anticipation of discussions scheduled for Friday in Washington, but that it would now not be necessary to get them in so soon; for the moment Friday night or early Saturday morning would be satisfactory. The General stated he would shoot for Friday night, unless he heard from the Secretary to the contrary.

The Secretary then stated that it might be wise if General Norstad could go to Washington to discuss things with the President, the Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense some time soon, but added that it might be better to delay until the studies scheduled for completion 22 September were finished. The General agreed that it might be a good idea; he said that at the present time he did not like to be away very long, but would plan on a one-day visit. The Secretary stated that if he could come the latter part of this month it would be very helpful. The General stated that there were other things they might discuss as well.

RHF